

years, SDHC continues to fulfill its mission "to support and promote the exchange of ideas to foster a thoughtful and engaged society." With funding from the National Endowment for Humanities and support from local communities, SDHC has improved access to outstanding cultural and civic opportunities for all South Dakotans. Virtually every county and most school districts in our State have benefitted from SDHC-sponsored programs. Especially at a time when many school districts have been forced to make difficult cuts to their budgets, SDHC has served as a valuable partner to schools across our State through its support of programs like National History Day. In addition, SDHC grants to community organizations provide critical "seed money" that promotes the preservation and study of humanities topics in cities and towns across South Dakota.

In addition to enriching the lives of South Dakotans, humanities programs represent an important source of economic development. The annual Festival of Books attracts thousands of booklovers every year who are given the chance to talk with locally and nationally recognized authors. In addition, the Museum on Main Street program brings Smithsonian exhibits to rural communities. This year, six communities in South Dakota will be hosting the exhibit "New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music." The SDHC's Speakers' Bureau provides funding for humanities scholars to present and lead discussions on humanities topics. These and many other programs sponsored by SDHC play an important role in attracting visitors to our State, which in turn brings in tourism dollars and supports jobs in local communities.

I appreciate the valuable role of SDHC in promoting the humanities in communities and schools across South Dakota. As a member of the Senate Cultural Caucus and a lifelong supporter of the arts and humanities, I congratulate SDHC on 40 successful years and thank the organization for its service to our State.●

#### RECOGNIZING UNITED HEALTH FOUNDATION SCHOLARS

● Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity to highlight two bright, young scholars from my home State of Minnesota, David Koffa and Victoria Okuneye, who have received scholarships from the United Health Foundation's Diverse Scholars Initiative.

David and Victoria are both hard-working and dedicated individuals who will undoubtedly be great members of the health care workforce.

David, who is currently attending Dartmouth College, believes that we can improve the health care system by taking a holistic approach to patient care. As a member of the future health workforce, David plans to focus not only on the physical well-being of pa-

tients, but on the social and emotional aspects of patient health. Taking advantage of the skills and opportunities provided through the United Health Diverse Scholars Initiative, David intends to provide high-quality health care services to impoverished communities and third-world countries.

Victoria, who is excelling at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, strives to make a difference by working to expand mental health research and services for disadvantaged/low resource communities, particularly among youth and adolescents. Through the United Health Diverse Scholars Initiative, Victoria has been able to take advantage of rewarding opportunities such as academic research internships and experiences in international public service.

Both David and Victoria are examples of academic excellence and personal determination. And as scholars of the United Health Foundation's Diverse Scholars Initiative, they will be great representatives of a multicultural and diverse health care workforce. I want to congratulate them on their achievements and look forward to their promising futures. ●

#### TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL MCSHANE

● Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor my long-time friend and advisor, Michael McShane, who will be retiring next month after 40 remarkable years working in government, the private sector, and in Democratic politics.

I first got to know Michael when he and I worked together to advance the goals of the Democratic Leadership Council and Third Way. He was responsible for all the DLC activities at both Clinton inaugurations and the 1996 and 2000 Democratic Conventions. Later, when I decided to run for President in 2004, I was honored to have Michael serve as the vice chair of my campaign.

Michael has built a long and impressive record of public service. As a young man, he served in the Air Force for 6 years, where he flew B-52s and served in Vietnam. After leaving the military in 1972, Michael worked as press secretary for Congressman John J. Rooney and then as a Foreign Service Officer before joining the Carter-Mondale 1976 Presidential campaign. Following that election, he served in the Carter White House as a Special Assistant to Vice President Mondale. Michael was later a White House advisor to President Clinton. He recently returned to public service, joining the Congressional Liaison Office at the United States Agency for International Development.

Mike McShane has also had a notable career in the private sector. After leaving the Carter administration in 1979, he began managing government relations programs for trade associations and Fortune 500 companies including System Development Corporation, National Computer Systems, and TRW.

He also founded and led The Policy Institute, and, later, the McShane Group International.

The academic and nonprofit communities have also benefitted greatly from Michael's talents and experience. He has served on the faculty of the Bryce Harlow Foundation, which seeks to promote the highest standards within the profession of lobbying and government relations, as Visiting Lecturer in American Political History at Boston University, and as a teacher of politics at Stanford, Notre Dame, Villanova, Georgetown, American, and East Carolina, his alma mater. A proud alum, Michael presently serves as vice chair of the Board of Visitors at East Carolina and the Board of the ECU Alumni Association. In 1998, he was named the East Carolina University Alumni of the Year.

I can't help but view Michael McShane's departure from Washington through a bittersweet lens. For while I am excited that he and his wonderful wife Susan will get to enjoy a much deserved retirement, I will miss Michael's wise counsel and thoughtful insights. Still, I am confident that his example will live on in all of us who were lucky enough to know him, and I wish Michael and Susan much happiness and success in their retirement in Charlottesville.●

#### REMEMBERING CHERYLL HEINZE

● Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I am saddened to inform the Senate of the death of a friend and former member of the Alaska Legislature Cheryll Heinze. Cheryll died last week when a float plane that was carrying her and colleagues to a fishing outing cartwheeled on landing and became submerged on Beluga Lake near Homer. At the time Cheryll was working as Director of Human Resources and Public Relations for the Matanuska Electric Association.

It is appropriate that we remember those whose lives end in tragedy for the way they lived their lives so I want to take the next few minutes to speak in tribute to an Alaskan who lived life to the fullest.

Cheryll Heinze was born in Wewoka, OK. She spent part of her childhood in Anchorage when her father was an Army Chaplain at Fort Richardson. In 1985, Cheryll returned to be an Alaskan for life. Most of her time in Alaska was spent in Anchorage but she also lived in Slana, Talkeetna and Valdez. Cheryll was married to Harold Heinze, the former President of ARCO Alaska. The two met when Harold was serving as Alaska's Commissioner of Natural Resources under former Governor Walter Hickel. Cheryll served as Press Secretary on Governor Hickel's 1990 campaign. The two made quite a power couple.

In 2002, Cheryll was elected to the 23rd Alaska Legislature representing House District 24 in Anchorage. Although she served a single 2-year term,